

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 June 1575 and proved 19 November 1575, of Dame Anne Wentworth of Gosfield, Essex, wife of Sir John Wentworth (1494 – 15 September 1567) of Gosfield Hall, Essex, friend and executor of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

By his last will and testament dated 28 July 1562 (see TNA PROB 11/46/247), the 16th Earl appointed the following six executors:

And the executors of this my last will I do ordain, constitute and make my right loving and well-beloved wife, Margery, Countess of Oxenford, my son Edward, Lord Bulbeck, my loving friend Sir John Wentworth, knight, and he to have for his pains in that behalf twenty pounds, my trusty servants Henry Golding, Robert Christmas and John Turner.

However when the 16th Earl's will was probated on 29 May 1563, the sole executor to receive a grant of administration was Robert Christmas, who was already in, or about to enter, Leicester's service (see BL Lansdowne 6/34, ff. 96-7 and TNA SP 15/13/5). It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the other five executors, including the 16th Earl's trusted friend, Sir John Wentworth, had been forced out.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of John Bettenham of Pluckley, Kent, and sister of Thomas Bettenham (d. before 1566?). It seems likely she was related to Elizabeth Bettenham, who married James Wilford (d.1526?). See the will of James Wilford, proved 12 January 1526, TNA PROB 11/22/6, and the History of Parliament entry for Nicholas Wilford (c.1495-1551) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wilford-nicholas-1495-1551>

b. c.1495, 5th s. of James Wilford of London by Elizabeth, da. of John Bettenham of Pluckley, Kent. m. 1529, Elizabeth, da. of Thomas Gale, 4s. 5da.1

See also the Wilford pedigree (in which Elizabeth Bettenham's surname is erroneously given as 'Bateman') in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 18 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess13metc#page/18>

For the Bettenham family, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke*, Vol. I, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), p. 313 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA313>

See also Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 56 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA56>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married Sir John Wentworth, for whose family background see the Wentworth pedigree in Rutton, William Loftie, *Three Branches of the Family of Wentworth*, (London: 1891), p. 194 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YhY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA194>

By Sir John Wentworth, the testatrix had one son and three daughters, none of whom left issue:

* **John Wentworth**, who died young. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, pp. 160, 194.

* **Margaret Wentworth**, who died unmarried in 1553. See Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, pp. 160, 194.

* **Mary Wentworth** (d.1554), who on 9 February 1546 married her cousin, Thomas Wentworth (1525-1584), 2nd Baron Wentworth. After her death he married her first cousin, Agnes Wentworth (d. 2 September 1571). See above. See also the *ODNB* entry for Thomas Wentworth, 2nd Baron Wentworth, and Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, pp. 160, 194.

* **Anne Wentworth** (1537 – 5 December 1580), Lady Maltravers, who inherited Gosfield Hall and entertained Queen Elizabeth there in August 1579. She married firstly, in April 1554, Sir Hugh Rich (d. 1 November 1554), son of Richard Rich (1496/7-1567), 1st Baron Rich; secondly Henry Fitzalan (1538 - 30 June 1556), Lord Maltravers, son and heir apparent of Henry Fitzalan (1512-1580), 12th Earl of Arundel; and thirdly her steward, William Deane (d. 4 October 1585), who inherited Dyne's Hall in Great Maplestead, Essex. After the death of Lady Maltravers, William Deane married secondly Anne Egerton, widow of George Blythe, esquire, Clerk of the Council of the North in 1572, a younger daughter of Thomas Egerton, citizen and mercer of London, 'who claimed to be descended from the Egertons of Wrinehill in Cheshire'. Her brother was Stephen Egerton (c.1555-1622), the Puritan preacher of St Anne's in the Blackfriars, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. See Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878),p. 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JeoJAAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA278>

See also Rutton, *Three Branches*, *supra*, pp. 160-3, 194, and p. 278 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=JeoJAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA278>

For the will of the testatrix' husband, Sir John Wentworth, see TNA PROB 11/49/288.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testatrix' 'cousin', Rooke Greene (d. 9 April 1602), esquire, son of Sir Edward Greene (d.1555), see Huntington Library EL 5870. See also Lambeth Palace Library MS 2008, letters from the Privy Council to Archbishop Whitgift, mainly concerning recusants:

22 December 1590. Order that Rooke Greene, esq., a recusant confined for three years at Ely and elsewhere, have liberty on giving bond to go to the country on account of his age and affairs (f. 19).

The testator's cousin, Rooke Greene, was co-executor with the testatrix of the will of the testatrix' husband, Sir John Wentworth.

In the will of the testatrix' husband, Judith Bettenham is identified as the daughter of the testatrix' brother, Thomas Bettenham, esquire, deceased. It appears from the will below that she married Arthur Breame.

LM: D{omine} Anne Wentworth

In the name of God, Amen. In the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred seventy-five and the twentieth day of June in the seventeenth year of the reign [+of?] our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Dame Anne Wentworth of Gosfield in the county of Essex, widow, late the wife of Sir John Wentworth, knight, of the said town & county, late deceased, and within the diocese of London, being of whole and perfect remembrance, praised [sic?] be given to Almighty God for the same, do ordain and make this my last will & testament as hereafter followeth, which said will and testament, to th' end it may take good effect & quiet success according to my desire and expectation, I have caused to be made tripartite, and indented them and subscribed my name in such manner and form as I use in all writings to either of them and to every leaf of them, and have also set my seal to either of them and to every leaf of them before such witnesses as are to them required and in them mentioned:

First I bequeath my soul into th' hands of Almighty God, my Maker, trusting to be received amongst his elect and the holy company of heaven through the merits of my Saviour, Jesus Christ;

And I will my body to be buried in the chancel of the church of [-of] Gosfield aforesaid next unto the body of my late husband, Sir John Wentworth, aforesaid in the tomb prepared for the same;

Item, I will there shall be bestowed upon blacks and other charges of my burial two hundred marks of current money of England;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, the Lady Maltravers, upon the performing of certain conditions hereafter expressed, one hundred pounds of current money of England, with one edge of great pearl to be valued at thirteen [f. 356r] pounds six shillings eight pence already delivered to her in my lifetime, and the said £13 6s 8d to be parcel of the abovesaid hundred pounds to her before bequeathed;

Also I give to my said daughter all such my part of the brewing vessel and the tables and forms in the hall and the table on [sic for 'in'?] the great chamber as were given to me by the will of my late husband, Sir John Wentworth, knight, late deceased, which said hundred pounds in manner and form aforesaid with the other utensils aforementioned I give and bequeath to my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, upon the performances of every of these condition and conditions following, that is to say:

She, my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, shall permit and suffer mine executors and every of them and their assigns peaceably and quietly to have and enjoy the use of Gosfield Hall, otherwise called Bell House [=Belhouse?], with all the houses, buildings, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, dowse houses [=dovehouses], ponds, waters, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings and the park there and all other the demesne lands with all profits and commodities thereunto belonging or unto any of them in as large and ample manner as I myself do or did occupy the same in my lifetime for the time and space of eight weeks next and immediately after my decease to this intent and purpose, that my executors with the profits, easements and commodities of the same may within the said eight weeks truly pay and deliver such legacies as are to be paid to any person or persons by this my last will;

And also upon this condition, that my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, shall permit and suffer my executors and every of them and their assigns quietly and peaceably to take, carry away and keep peaceably all my goods without let, denial, suit of law or any trouble by me [sic?], the saidie [sic] Lady Anne Maltravers, or by any other person or persons or other body or bodies in her name or by her commandment, appointment or authority;

And further upon this condition, that she, my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, shall within the said eight weeks next after my decease and before the receipt of her said legacy, deliver under her hand and seal to either of my executors such general acquittances as shall be by the learned counsel of both my executors thought good and sufficient in the law both for the discharge of my said daughter's legacy and a sure discharge of all other troubles, debts, accounts, demands or encumbrances that might

grow by reason of this my will or the will of my late husband or any others towards my executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to my nephew, Arthur Breame of Gosfield in the said county of Essex, one hundred pounds of current money of England, and also all such bill or bills of debt and all the said debt and money which my cousin, Rooke Greene, doth owe me, as by the same at large doth appear;

Yet nevertheless if my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, shall be minded or will, within thirty days next after my decease out of this life to God, make or cause to be made unto my said nephew, Arthur Breame, one good, sure, sufficient and lawful lease in the law with warranty for the term of twenty and one years next after my decease of all and every those houses, tenements, lands, meadows, pastures and all other th' appurtenances as they be hereafter generally and particularly named, that is to say, of all the houses and tenements, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures and feedings and all other whatsoever which my late husband bought of Mr Roger Parker called Hancockes, Godholte and Perefieid and all others whatsoever [+which?] were my late husband's and now or late were in the occupation of one James Clerke or his assigns and of myself pertaining to the said tenement that the said James occupieth or occupied;

And also of and in one other tenement called Hodinges or Holdinges with all the houses, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings and all other whatsoever as they be now or were in the tenure and occupying of one John Grey or his assigns;

And also of and in the dovehouse with the doves and barn called Hodinges and of and in ten loads of round wood yearly to be assigned within a mile of the said tenement or tenements, all which said tenements, houses, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings and all other whatsoever aforementioned are situate and lying in the parish of Gosfield in the said county of Essex, which if my said daughter, the Lady Anne Maltravers, shall well and lawfully by good and lawful lease assure in manner and form aforesaid and by such other assurances as shall be thought meet by my said nephew, Arthur Breame, or by his learned counsel, for the said term of one & twenty years, reserving upon them and every of them the old accustomed rents, taking no fine of my said nephew, and the same lease and assurances to be made without clause of re-entry, and my said nephew to have all such woods and timber as is or shall be at my decease growing upon all & every of the foresaid grounds to be occupied and expent at and upon the said tenements, houses and grounds;

And upon the assuring of all the said premises and all other aforementioned to my said nephew, Arthur Breame, his executors and assigns, in manner and form aforesaid and within the said thirty days, then I will my said daughter shall have the said legacy of one hundred pounds and also the said debt and bill or [f. 356v] bills of debt owing by my cousin Greene aforegiven and bequeathed to my said nephew, Arthur Breame, so long as my executors can recover and come by the same;

Item, I give to my sister, Dorothy Bettenham, thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give to my nephew, Jerome Bettenham, thirty pounds of current money of England;

Nevertheless, if my said nephew, Jerome, do receive the said thirty pounds in my lifetime, then I will he shall not make any claim to this said gift of thirty pounds;

Item, I give to my nephew, Samuel Bettenham, ten pounds of current money of England;

Item, I give to my nephew, Peter Bettenham, ten pounds of current money of England;

Item, I give unto my niece, Hester Bettenham, ten pounds of current money of England;

Item, I give unto my said nephew, Arthur Breme, one hundred pounds of current money of England;

Also I give unto my said nephew, Arthur Breme, and to his heirs my customary tenement called North's and Church croft and all other the lands both free and copy to the same belonging or appertaining, being all those tenements and lands which I bought of Robert Walforde of Wethersfield in the county of Essex, deceased, all which said tenements and lands last expressed are situate and lying in the parishes of Wethersfield and Shalford in the said county of Essex;

And I will that my said nephew and his heirs pay out thereof towards the finding of his cousin, Isaac Copwood, the sum of forty-six shillings eight pence yearly during his life, and after his decease I will that my said nephew and his heirs shall pay forever forty-six shillings eight pence if the said tenement and lands will so be let, or otherwise shall pay so much by year as the same will be let for to the poor and most needy people of the parish of Gosfield at two usual feasts in the year, that is to say, the one half at Christmas, the other at Whitsuntide, and if default thereof be made, then I will the churchwardens of the said parish of Gosfield shall distrain for the same upon the said grounds and houses, and take and keep the same distress till they be answered the said rent with all costs and charges;

Item, I give to my cousin, Rooke Greene, esquire, one little tablet of gold which he gave me;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mr Henry Drury of Lawsell [=Lawshall] in the county of Suffolk, esquire, ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to my niece, Judith Breme, all my furniture that I have either for myself or for my women, viz., pillows, saddles, pillion, saddle cloths, bridles, peytrals and all other furniture to them belonging, and also one garnish of pewter vessel at her choice, one pair of sheets of my own spinning, one board cloth and a towel of plain

diaper, one pair of beads of gold, price forty shillings, one brooch of gold, price three pounds, one tablet of gold, price twenty shillings, one other tablet of gold with an image;

Item, I give to every of my servants that are named in a schedule to this my will annexed such sum and sums of money as is to them severally named and appointed;

The residue and overplus of all and singular my goods and chattels movable and unmovable not herein before bequeathed nor assigned I will, give and refer to the discretion of mine executors, whom I ordain and make Henry Drury aforesaid and my said nephew, Arthur Breame, praying them that if the value of my said goods will reach thereto, that then they will bestow upon my said two nephews, Jerome Bettenham and Samuel Bettenham, twenty or thirty pounds more than is afore bequeathed to them;

In witness whereof I, the said Lady Anne Wentworth, to this my said last will and testament have put to my hand and seal the day and year first above-written in the presence of these witnesses being required thereunto: William Hause, Robert Brant, John Curray.

The schedule of the names of servants

Sir Robert Thompson, thirty shillings.
Mrs Elizabeth Thursbee, thirty shillings.
John Catterall, forty shillings.
John Peche & Thomas Wood, forty shillings.
Thomas Fyche, twenty shillings.
Floode, twenty shillings.
Richard Gonier, twenty shillings.
George Cooe, forty shillings.
Thomas Lawrence, forty shillings.
Robin Smithe, twenty shillings.
John James, twenty shillings.
Andrew Mannock, forty shillings.
Annes Wood, twenty shillings.
Robert Gosnold, 20s.
William Clarivaunces, twenty shillings.
Asheton, forty shillings.
Henry Hunte, ten shillings.
John Golding, ten shillings.
John Clarke, ten Shillings.
William Osborne, ten shillings.
Spencer, ten shillings.
James Clark, ten shillings.
Harde, ten shillings.
Reve, ten shillings.
William Clark, ten shillings.

the widow Howe, twenty shillings.

Probatum fuit testamentum huiusmodi coram magistro Willmo Drewrie legum Doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario apud london decimo nono die mensis Novembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo Septuagesimo quinto Iuramento Arthuri Breame Executoris & Cui commissa fuit Administratio & de bene & Deque pleno et fideli Inventario & Necnon de plano et vero Computo & Iurat Henrico Drurie armigero altero Executore oneri executionis dicti testamenti expresse Renuntian(?)

[=The same testament was proved before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the nineteenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-fifth by the oath of Arthur Breame, executor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also a plain and true account etc., Henry Drury, esquire, the other executor, having expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament.]